

Yuki language

Yuki, also known as **Ukomno'm**, is an extinct language of California, formerly spoken by the Yuki people.^[2] The Yuki are the original inhabitants of the Eel River area and the Round Valley Reservation of northern California. Yuki ceased to be used as an everyday language in the early 20th century and its last speaker, Arthur Anderson, died in 1983.^[3] Yuki is generally thought to be distantly related to the Wappo language.

Contents

Classification

Vocabulary

Grammar

Phonology

References

External links

Classification

Yuki consisted of three dialects, from east to west: Yuki proper (Round Valley Yuki), Huchnom (Clear Lake Yuki) and Coast Yuki. These were at least partially mutually intelligible, but are sometimes counted as distinct languages.^[4]

These languages are categorized as (Northern) Yukian within the Yuki–Wappo family, which also includes the distant Wappo language. It is thought that the ancestor of the Yukian languages diverged from Wappo around 1500 BCE.^[5] The three Yukian languages diverged from each other over the last one thousand years, while dialectal variations in Wappo are even more recent. The most likely catalyst or, at least, influence on the separation of Yukian and Wappo was the expansion of the Pomo, leading to *pomoization* of the Wappo language and physical separation between the Yuki and the Wappo tribes.^[6]

Vocabulary

Yuki had an octal (base-8) counting system, as the Yuki keep count by using the four spaces between their fingers rather than the fingers themselves.^[7] Yuki also had an extensive vocabulary for the plants of Mendocino County, California.^[8]

Grammar

Yuki	
<i>Ukomno'm</i>	
Region	Eel River area (formerly)
Ethnicity	Yuki people
Extinct	20th century
Language family	Yuki–Wappo <div>▪ Yuki</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	yuk (Yuki proper)
Linguist List	yuk (http://multitree.org/codes/yuk) <div>Yuki proper</div>
	qdw (http://multitree.org/codes/qdw) <div>Coast Yuki</div>
	qiq (http://multitree.org/codes/qiq) <div>Huchnom</div>
Glottolog	yuki1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/yuki1243) ^[1]

An extensive reference grammar of Yuki was published in 2016 and is based primarily on the texts and other notes recorded by Alfred L. Kroeber from Yuki speaker Ralph Moore in the first decade of the 20th century as well as elicited material recorded from other speakers later in the 20th century. This grammar also contains sketches of Huchnom and Coast Yuki based on the notes of Sydney Lamb and John Peabody Harrington, respectively.^[9]

Phonology

Consonants^[9]

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	Plain	p	t̪	t			k	ʔ
	Ejective	pʼ	t̪ʼ	tʼ			kʼ	
<u>Affricate</u>	Plain				tʃ			
	Ejective				tʃʼ			
<u>Fricative</u>	Plain			s	ʃ			h
	Ejective			sʼ				
<u>Nasal</u>	Plain	m		n				
	Glottal	ʔm		ʔn				
<u>Approximant</u>	Plain	w		l		j		
	Glottal	ʔw		ʔl		ʔj		

An alveolar stop /t/ is an apico-alveolar stop articulated as [t̪].

Vowels^[9]

	<u>Front</u>		<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>	
	short	long		short	long
<u>Close</u>	i	iː		u	uː
<u>Mid</u>			ə	o	oː
	e	eː			
<u>Open</u>	a	aː			

References

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- Ethnologue report for language code:yuk (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=yuk)
- Balodis, Uldis (2016). *Yuki Grammar: With Sketches of Huchnom and Coast Yuki* (<https://books.google.es/books?id=7z0lDQAAQBAJ&pg=PA23>). University of California Press. p. 23. ISBN 978-0-520-29219-2.
- Campbell 1997:132

5. McCarthy, Helen (1985). *Ethnography and Prehistory of the North Coast Range, California* (<https://books.google.es/books?id=a4wWAQAIAAJ>). University of California. p. 26.
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7. Ascher, Marcia (1994), *Ethnomathematics: A Multicultural View of Mathematical Ideas*, Chapman & Hall, ISBN 978-0-412-98941-4
8. Chestnut, Victor King (1902). *Plants used by the Indians of Mendocino County, California* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=vLkUAAAAYAAJ>). Government Printing Office. Retrieved 24 August 2012.
9. Balodis, Uldis (2016). "Phonetics and Phonology". *Yuki Grammar with Sketches of Huchnom and Coast Yuki* (<https://books.google.es/books?id=7z0IDQAAQBAJ>). University of California Press. ISBN 9780520292192.

External links

- "Native American Audio Collections: Yuki" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20130505210428/http://www.amphilsoc.org/exhibit/natamaudio/yuki>). *American Philosophical Society*. Archived from the original (<http://www.amphilsoc.org/exhibit/natamaudio/yuki>) on 2013-05-05.
 - Northern Yukian language (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~survey/languages/northern-yukian.php>) overview at the [Survey of California and Other Indian Languages](#)
 - OLAC resources in and about the Yuki language (<http://www.language-archives.org/language/yuk>)
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